

As a potential purchaser of an HDTV set, I am appalled by this extortion attempt on the part of Hollywood interests to introduce a "broadcast flag" telling the consumer what we can't watch at our convenience. You must vote against this proposal.

Historically, Hollywood interests have not been pleased by the Supreme Court ruling that legitimizes "timeshifting", or the ability to record a program so that it may be watched at a latter, possibly more convenient time. The advent of the VCR was harolded as the "downfall of Hollywood" since anyone would be able to tape shows or movies and pass them on to their friends. Instead, the VCR has now been described as saving Hollywood with the boom of "Home Entertainment", nonetheless being the precursor to DVD.

This proposal is, in effect, a direct circumvention of the Supreme Court ruling. Approval of this proposal will set a dangerous precedent; one that says Hollywood can ignore rulings by the Supreme Court if it suits them.

The claim that this "broadcast flag" is only for the prevention of piracy is unfounded. This is assuming that the majority of the population will use a recording for illegal pratices; everyone is guilty until proven innocent. This is in direct contradiction of American principles and is an insult to the general public.

The major problem with this proposal is that it will completely remove the ability of watching a program that someone would not normally watch. For example, my wife works typically until 5pm and does not get home until sometime after 6pm. Both my wife and myself used to watch "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central each night at 7pm. Recently, they have changed the showing from 7pm to 5:30pm. This means that my wife will never again be able to watch the show unless it is recorded.

I sincerely hope that you will consider these arguments and vote against this proposal for a limiting "broadcast flag."